

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5966

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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DEPT PLEASE PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CA, SF, RH

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA WILL NOT PARTICIPATE  
IN 1976 MONTREAL OLYMPICS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: INVITATION FROM QUEBEC TRACK AND FIELD  
ASSOCIATION TO SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA TO PARTICIPATE  
IN PRE-OLYMPIC COMPETITION THIS SUMMER HAS RESULTED  
IN PROMPT DISCLAIMER FROM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF 1976  
MONTEAL OLYMPICS (COJO). END SUMMARY.

1. USING LIST OF MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF INTER-  
NATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETICS FEDERATION (IAAF), QUEBEC  
ASSOCIATION RECENTLY SENT LETTER TO ALL SUCH MEMBERS  
(INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA), WHICH IT NOW  
DESCRIBES AS "A LETTER TO FEEL OUT INTEREST FROM THE  
VARIOUS COUNTRIES". IN 1975 PRE-OLYMPIC COMPETITION  
RATHER THAN AN INVITATION. LETTER STIMULATED PRESS  
ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PRETORIA STATING THAT "INVITATION,  
THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICA HAS RECEIVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS,  
IS REGARDED HERE AS A POSITIVE STEP BY THE IAAF IN  
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OPENING THE WAY FOR THIS COUNTRY'S RETURN TO INTER-

NATIONAL COMPETITION." SOUTH AFRICAN AAU CHAIRMAN BOTHA WAS QUOTED AS HOPING "POLITICAL INFLUENCES WILL NOT PREVENT SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES FROM COMPETING IN MONTEAL."

2. INEVITABLE STORM OF PROTEST RESULTED, INCLUDING STATEMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICAN EXILE CECIL ABRAMS, MONTREAL-BASED MEMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN NON-RACIAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (SANROC), WHO PREDICTED THAT "IF THIS SORT OF THING GOES THROUGH THERE WILL BE POLITICAL DISRUPTION OF THE COMPETITION IN MONTREAL THIS SUMMER AND A TOTAL AFRICAN BOYCOTT OF ALL COMPETITION INVOLVING CANADIAN TEAMS IN ANY SPORT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD."

3. COJO DIRECTOR GENERAL ROGER ROUSSEAU HAS NOW REACTED WITH STATEMENT THAT COJO WOULD RESPECT BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA BY THE VARIOUS SPORTS FEDERATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. HE NOTED THAT "THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE THE EXCHANGE OF ATHLETES BETWEEN CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA" AND THAT "ALL ORGANIZING COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN THE 1975 COMPETITION WILL BE ASKED TO RESPECT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY" (SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY).

4. CANADIAN PRESS HAS OBSERVED THAT MOVE NOT TO INVITE SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT END THREAT OF AFRICAN BOYCOTT UNTIL PROBLEM WITH RHODESIA HAS BEEN SETTLED. PRESS NOTES RHODESIA IS MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING NOT ONLY OF IAAF BUT ALSO IOC, AT LEAST UNTIL LATTER'S ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY IN LAUSANNE. UNNAMED "OTTAWA SOURCE" QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IF RHODESIA ACCEPTS QUEBEC INVITATION, MATTER CAN BE HANDLED "POLITICALLY": SINCE CANADA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE RHODESIA, RHODESIAN ATHLETES CANNOT TRAVEL TO CANADA ON RHODESIAN PASSPORTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: SEEMS FAIRLY CERTAIN QUEBEC LETTERS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA WERE INADVERTENT. CANADIANS GENERALLY FEEL STRONG MORAL REPUGNANCE TOWARDS RACIAL SITUATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIA, PROBABLY HEIGHTENED BY SENSE OF GUILT AND FRUSTRATION OVER DESIRE TO RETAIN REPUTATION FOR MORAL RECTITUDE BUT PROBABLY EVEN STRONGER DESIRE TO CURTAIL GROWING NON-WHITE IMMIGRATION INTO CANADA. IN ANY EVENT, BOTH BECAUSE CANADA ANXIOUS TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND ITS

RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICA AND BECAUSE THE MONTREAL  
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CANNOT AFFORD TO ADD TO ITS ALREADY  
STAGGERING FINANCIAL WOES, WE ARE CONFIDENT CANADA  
WILL FIND THE MEANS TO EXCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA AND  
RHODESIA FROM THE 1976 OLYMPICS AND FROM PRE-OLYMPIC  
COMPETITION. PORTER

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